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sand. Meantime every reader must pause to praise the ample and living and literary qualities of the work as scholarly as if it dealt with classic matter, but tinged and flavored by the testimony of witnesses, correspondents, interlocutors, who yet live, and further vivified by personal acquaintance with the ground both in the north of Italy and in the Mediterranean isles, which was the scene of the action. It is romantic rather than epical, adventurous rather than dramatic; the interest nowhere flags, and the style is a gentleman's and scholar's. So should history be written.

The greatest service of this book* will be to hard-pressed teachers. It presents in a handy form a great deal of information usually accessible only in libraries, and it reproduces a large number of miscellaneous pictures apt to pique the young mind. It has the life and movement of matter actually talked; selected and arranged to catch the eye and ear. It is not always fair to the Elizabethan people, however: that they were neither so much more cruel than we or so much more credulous, as the writer declares, his own evidence very candidly attests. To carry, for instance, a certain herb in the mouth as precaution against the plague need not be superstition; it may be antiseptis. And there is a rash statement (for another instance) on page 7 about the consequences of the defeat of the Armada. If Englishmen had waited till after 1588 to travel abroad, where should we all be now?

ESSAY.

Gleanings from the "Gentlemen's Magazine," under the editorship of Mr. A. H. Bullen, is bound to yield good reading, and it is high praise to say of the seventeen essays in this volume the eleven now for the first time printed excel in poetic charm and leisurely wisdom the six which originally appeared in that magazine. Leisurely wisdom, indeed, is the marked characteristic of these lovely essays. There is no startling brilliancy or wit, but the soft light of a quiet, kindly wit plays over all the essays and leaves us the better, the gentler, the kindlier, for the companionship of so wise a leader. The very titles of the essays

* "The Elizabethan People." By Henry Thew Stephenson. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1910.